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DHEC Health Advisory

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Guidelines for Healthcare Providers Regarding Stockpiling of Antivirals

Symmetrel (Amantadine), Flumadine (Rimantadine)
Relenza (Zanamivir), and Tamiflu (Oseltamivir)

Background

Outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza ("bird flu") have been ongoing in poultry in a number of countries in Southeast Asia and southern and eastern Europe since late 2003. In addition, a limited number of sporadic human cases and deaths from avian influenza continue to be reported from Southeast Asia (mainly Vietnam and Indonesia). Most of these cases were infected during extensive contact with sick poultry or wild birds in H5N1 documented countries.

To date, there has been no reported sustained or ongoing human-to-human transmission of H5N1 avian influenza.

There has been no high pathogen H5N1 avian influenza in poultry or humans in the US. There are several strains of avian influenza (H2, H3 and H7) in poultry. The influenza type A strain known as "Asian Bird Flu" is high path strain H5N1.

DHEC Guidelines Regarding the Stockpiling of Antivirals

There are limited supplies of influenza antivirals in the US. Hoarding of these drugs now due to concerns about a future pandemic threatens the availability of influenza antivirals for those who need it most during the current regular influenza season.

The indiscriminate and inappropriate use of influenza antivirals may promote the development and spread of resistance to these important drugs among influenza viruses.

DHEC strongly discourages stockpiling of antivirals for personal use. Healthcare providers are asked to refrain from prescribing these medications for purposes other than as treatment of symptomatic individuals or chemo-prophylaxis in institutional or high risk populations.

Priority Use of Antivirals for Treatment and Chemoprophylaxis

- The highest priority for use of Antivirals for treatment during the upcoming regular flu season is for people who are at highest risk of serious complications from influenza infection (e.g. persons >65 years, young children, and persons with certain chronic diseases). Treatment to reduce length and severity of illness should begin within 1-2 days after symptom onset. Treatment will decrease duration of illness by about 1 day compared to placebo.

- The next highest priority for use of influenza antiviral medications is as chemoprophylaxis in persons who live and work in institutions caring for people at high risk of serious complications from influenza infection who are exposed to influenza (e.g. hospital or nursing home with an outbreak of influenza or a high risk household contact of a documented case of influenza) during the regular flu season.

Steps that people can take now to keep themselves and others healthy this flu season include: getting their flu shot for the regular flu season, covering their cough with their arm or tissue, stay home from work or school when sick with cough illness, and washing hands after coughing or touching respiratory secretions.

Resources for Additional Information

- **CDC Antiviral Guidelines and Recommendations**
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0506antiviralguide.htm>
- **Clemson Livestock and Poultry Information on Avian Influenza in Birds**
<http://www.clemson.edu/lph/animaldiseaseinformation.htm#Poultry>
- **DHEC Influenza Surveillance website**
<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

(Anderson, Oconee)
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

(Greenville, Pickens)
PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Region 3

(Chester, Lancaster, York)
PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886 or
1-888-739-0748

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Region 4

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)
PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)
PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Region 5 (cont)

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)
1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902